Summary of the Final Presentation

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**A Dictionary of English Language**

**1. Author:**

．Samuel Johnson, a versatile literary figure, quite well-learned, having the literary capacity of editing a comprehensive dictionary.

**2. Background:**

．Publishing industry throve in London. => A group of six booksellers found a need for a well-organized English dictionary.

**3. Johnson’s *The Plan* (1947):**

．English was corrupting => Johnson intended to fix the English language by a prescriptive dictionary.

Goals: fix spelling, trace etymology, and guide the pronunciation.

**4. The complete work:**

．The Dictionary was published in 1755, including over 42000 words and 111000 illustrative quotations.

．He first wanted to fix the language, but eventually finished a descriptive one, due to irresistible plasticity of the language.

**5. Achievements:**

“Classcifying words, fixing their meaning, bringing order to the chaos of language...Landmark of English literature.” (Ixy, 2012)

**6. Influence:**

．Establishing the basic layout of later dictionaries (different applications marked by numbers, etymology column, illustrations), adopted by Oxford English Dictionary.

．Elegance of Definitions: From vagueness of pervious dictionaries to clear, vivid descriptions.

．Influence on American Law: The Dictionary serves as a useful tool to trace the meanings of earlier legal documents.

**6. Criticism**

．Some of the definitions include Johnson’s bias.

．Some of the definitions are pedantic.

**7. References:**

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